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Message Text

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46
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 EB-07 EUR-12 /089 W
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R 211114Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USINT BAGHDAD UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 9221

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LE, XF, IZ
SUBJECT: LEBANESE ASSESSMENT CURRENT IRAQI SITUATION

1. DURING RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT FRANGIE, GOVERNOR NATIONAL BANK ELIAS SARKIS, PRESIDENT ADVISOR BOUTROS DIB AND GHASSAN TUENI ALL HAVE INDICATED THAT IRAQI HAVE GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY DURING LAST ONE OR TWO MONTHS TO SHOW MODERATION, NOT ONLY ON OVERALL MIDDLE PROBLEMS BUT ALSO IRAQI-LEBANESE. DIB AND FRANGIE BOTH MENTIONED NEW IRAQI AMBASSADOR'S OSTENSIBLE COOPERATION, NOT ONLY IN MORGAN CASE BUT ALSO OTHER KIDNAPPINGS BEIRUT. SARKIS EMPHASIZED WE SHOULD NO LONGER CONSIDER IRAQ AND LIBYA AS THE TWO ULTRA-MAVERICKS AND THAT HE IS CONVINCED IRAQ ENDEAVORING PUT AS MUCH SPACE AS POSSIBLE BETWEEN ITSELF AND QADHAFI. YESTERDAY GHASSAN TUENI, WHO RETURNED FROM THREE DAY VISIT BAGHDAD WHERE HE ATTENDED OIL MINISTERS CONCLAVE, STRESSED HIS MOST
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FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF IRAQ ELEMENTS AND FACT THAT ALL IRAQI

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WITH WHOM HE SPOKE EMPHASIZED GOI'S DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS THROUGHOUT MIDDLE EAST AND ESPECIALLY IN GULF AREA. TUENI MENTIONED HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT WAR AGAINST KURDS COST GOI EIGHT MILLION DINARS A DAY. THESE RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND IRAQ NOW HELL-BENT FOR CONSERVATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMAGE OF RESPECTABILITY. TUENI MENTIONED SHORTAGE PERSONNEL, BOTH TRAINED AND UNTRAINED, AND REFERRED TO A VILLAGE IN BAGHDAD ARA BUILT TO HOUSE 50,000 REPEAT 50,000 EGYPTIAN FARMERS. TUENI STATED HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY IRAQI OFFICIALS THAT IRAQ DEVELOPMENT PLANS PROVIDED THAT BY 1985 THERE WILL HAVE TO BE FIVE MILLION FOREIGN WORKERS EMPLOYED IRAQ. I QUESTIONED THIS FIGURE. TUENI ADMITTED IT WAS FANTASTIC BUT MAINTAINED IT WAS WHAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD.

2. NOTWITHSTANDING EVALUATION OF IRAQ TURNING MODERATE, NONE OF PERSONS MENTIOED ABOUT SAW ANY MODERATION RE SYRIAA-IRAQ TENSIONS. ALL OPINED NO REPEAT NO GIVE IN IRAQ POSITION.

3. NEW BUT RELATED SUBJECT. TUENI SAID HE DISCUSSED JIDDA DECISIION RE EXCLUSION ISRAEL FROM UN WITH SEVERAL IRAQI LEADERS, ALL OF WHOM WERE MOST RELAXED ON THIS ISSUE AND SAW NO REPEAT NO NEED TO PUSH IT ACTIVELY. TUENI SUGGESTED SYRIAN SPONSORSHIP MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH IRAQI DISINTEREST.
GODLEY

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